

Town Administrator's Report
September 8, 2011

1. Tropical Storm Irene impacts are still being felt throughout Dedham. The cleanup efforts are still ongoing with branch and tree removal. Russell Disposal has agreed to move our yard waste schedule up by two weeks in order to accommodate the large amount of yard debris that was left from the storm. Power, for the most part, was restored by Friday Night, September 2 with only a few isolated exceptions. We are planning to have a debriefing session on the storm either this week or next depending on the availability of all the necessary participants; including NSTAR and MEMA. I want to extend the Town's appreciation to Town employees, officials, tree workers, utility linemen and any volunteers who assisted in the storm emergency management planning and operations. While I know that many Dedham residents were impacted and inconvenienced by the storm and subsequent power outages, the good news is that our storm damage was primarily limited to downed trees, branches and utility lines. There were no significant injuries to report or fatalities. There were some structural damage incidents involving trees falling on two homes but in both cases the damage is repairable and not overly extensive.

2. Municipal Elections to the MPO- the Board has been requested to support to candidates for consideration in this month's election to the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization). Both candidates are seeking election to different open slots on the newly constituted MPO. One candidate, Chairman Moe Handel of the Needham Board of Selectmen is seeking the Board's support for one of the two At-Large Seats and the other, Mike Lyons, Chairman of the Norwood Board of Selectmen is seeking the Board's support for one of the Regional Seats (TRIC) seat. In Mr. Lyon's case, if he were to be elected, he would then assign this responsibility to Mr. Tom O'Rourke of Norwood who also serves as the President of the Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce. Mr. O'Rourke has agreed to serve as the region's representative at the MPO table and advocate for all of the region's transportation programs. The Board is requested to act this week to endorse both candidates since the deadline for submitting nomination papers is the 23rd of this month but both candidates would like to submit their information in the next week. If anyone would like to discuss this with me this week, please feel free to contact me.

3. Golf Balls at Doggett Circle- Our Office has been in contact over the past few weeks with the Dedham Housing Authority to follow-up on a concern expressed by some residents at the Board's Meeting in August. The Housing Authority had been monitoring the situation on a regular basis over the past year until they no longer had been receiving complaints about the concern at Housing Complex at Doggett Circle. When they were alerted by the recent comments expressed at the Board's Meeting, they were unaware that the concerns continued to exist because the stray golf ball have been retrieved by residents before Housing Authority personnel could determine that the problem has continued to exist. Mr. Kershner, is one of the residents who has allegedly been impacted but the Housing Authority has offered him a new apartment at the opposite end of the development on an interim basis until the problem can be permanently rectified. The Housing Authority is committed to addressing this issue with the owners of McGolf to try and identify a solution.

4. Fall meeting activity will now begin in full force with activity beginning to step up on multiple fronts in September. The DPW/Public Works Study Committee will have its first meeting on Tuesday Night. Some limited work has been done on the evaluation of the Endicott Management Evaluation but it is becoming clearer to me that it would be most prudent to have an outside firm conduct a review of the operations and then provide me with some recommendations. I am now in the process of identifying firms who perform this type of evaluation and to determine what this would cost.

5. This weekend is the Town's 375th Birthday Celebration with Town-wide barbeque occurring at the Endicott Estate on Saturday from 12-5. I am sure that Sara and Nancy will provide further details at the meeting as they have been working hard on the Planning Committee over the past year. Let's all hope for good weather for this terrific celebration of Dedham's heritage.

6. Another Dedham Square Improvement Project Construction Mitigation meeting will be held on Wednesday evening at Town Hall in an attempt to hear from residents who live in and around Dedham Square. The meeting is planned for 7:00 P.M.